UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
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A/AC.241/L.35
13 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 6

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS TENTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Anatoli M. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan)

I. INTRODUCTION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, was held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997. The session was convened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995 entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa". At its tenth session, the Committee held ___ meetings (1st to __).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Officers of the Committee

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 January, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Fassassi Adam Yacoubou (Benin) as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, to replace

Mr. René Valéry Mongbé (Benin), who was unable to continue his functions on the Bureau.

3. The Bureau of the Committee, as elected at its sixth, eighth, ninth and tenth sessions, is as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Bo Kjellén (Sweden)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Fassassi Adam Yacoubou (Benin)
Mr. Alok Jain (India)
Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)

Rapporteur: Mr. Anatoli M. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan)

Working Group I

Chairman: Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Mohammad Reza H. K. Jabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Erwin Ortiz-Gandarillas (Bolivia)
Mr. Franklin C. Moore (United States of America)

Working Group II

Chairman: Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. David Etuket (Uganda)
Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)

B. Adoption of the agenda

4. At its 1st meeting, on 6 January, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties.

3. Special action:

   (a) Urgent action for Africa;

   (b) Action taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session.

C. Attendance

5. Representatives of the following States attended the session:

(To be included.)

6. The following United Nations offices and organs were represented:

(To be included.)

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

(To be included.)

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

(To be included.)

9. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

(To be included.)

D. Documentation

10. The documents before the Committee at its tenth session are listed in annex ___ to the present report (to be included).

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Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Participation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision:

Participation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 7 of the Convention,

Noting Rule 7 in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties which provides that any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the

Convention, and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object,

Noting also that such Rule 7 also provides that such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object,

Decides:

(a) To accredit to the first session of the Conference of the Parties the non-governmental organizations previously accredited to sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as listed in annex I to this decision;

(b) To accredit to the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the Parties those additional non-governmental organizations which the Secretariat may recommend for accreditation, as listed in annex II to this decision;

(c) In deciding on the accreditation of additional non-governmental organizations to the second and subsequent ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties shall take account of decisions 1/1 and 2/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations as adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first and second sessions (documents A/45/46, annex I and A/46/48, annex I). Non-governmental organizations so accredited may participate in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) To accord observer status at the first session of the Conference of the Parties to all the intergovernmental organizations previously accorded such status at sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as listed in annex III to this decision;

(e) To accord observer status at the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference to the Parties those additional intergovernmental organizations which the Secretariat may recommend to be accorded such status, as listed in annex IV to this decision;

(f) In deciding on according observer status to additional intergovernmental organizations to the second and subsequent ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties shall bear in mind the established practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Organizations accorded such status may participate in accordance with the Rules of the Conference of the Parties.

ANNEX I

List of non-governmental organizations previously accredited to sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Those non-governmental organizations referred to in the following decisions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee:

1/1 except for the organization referred to in paragraph 72 thereof, Southern Africa Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of the Soil (SARCCUS)

2/2

3/1

4/1

5/1

6/1

7/1

8/1

9/1

10/1[1]

ANNEX II

List of additional non-governmental organizations to be accredited to the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the Parties

(To be completed)

[1] A reservation was expressed after the adoption of this decision with respect to the non-governmental organization referred to in paragraph 10 of document A/AC.241/9/Add.13 and Corr.1, in terms of its participation in the Conference of the Parties.

ANNEX III

List of intergovernmental organizations previously accorded observer status at sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

1. Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

2. Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

3. Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILLS)

4. Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

5. Southern African Development Corporation (SADC)

6. Centre for Environment and Development Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)

7. Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research/International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (CGIAR/ICRISAT)

8. Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of Soil (SARCCUS)

ANNEX IV

List of additional intergovernmental organizations to be accorded observer status at the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the Parties

(To be completed)

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REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Use of the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following decision:

Use of the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 15 of resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 of the General Assembly relating to a special voluntary fund to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiation process of the Committee,

Recalling also paragraph 13 of resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and paragraph 8 of resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995 of the General Assembly relating to the possibility of using the trust fund to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling also paragraph 13 (b) of resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996 relating to the maintenance of arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds,

Noting with pleasure the entry into force of the Convention on 26 December 1996,

1. Decides that the head of the interim secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall have the possibility of using the special voluntary fund, as appropriate, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the Conferences of the Parties process;

2. Decides further that the head of the interim secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall have the possibility of using the trust fund, as appropriate, to support also the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Conferences of the Parties.